

Rhetoric Essay (Claim/Evidence/Analysis)

Throughout the excerpt by the American soldier, various uses of rhetoric causes the reader, not only to become interested in the article, but also invokes sympathy and appeals to many aspects of human nature as well. Wars can be terrifying to be apart of and many brave, courageous, good, and honorable men can lose and have lost their lives fighting for what they believe in. It is hard enough for those of us who have not experienced activities such as these to even imagine the strife and aggravation, let alone the trepidation of not knowing how much longer you have to live. Throughout this article of a soldier's insight, it is made clear to the reader just how difficult even the things that we take for granted are in the midst of a war. In order to illustrate his experiences within the war and also divulge his attitude toward his insightful experience, an American soldier in Iraq uses rhetoric in the form of pathos, imagery, and even diction.

The soldier has presented, whether accurate or not, a magnificent display of his account of experiences in such detail and knowledgeable writing style that it affects the emotions of the readers. This usage of the appeal to pathos is clear in many of the author's well-written details. The American soldier states, "Tear down the three walls of your tent seen from the street and you have about as much privacy as I have (11)." This sentence, even standing alone evokes a pang of sympathy for the cruel conditions he faces, as I am sure, none of his readers would enjoy the idea of only having a shred of privacy, if that, within a cluttered, unsanitary little tent. The author uses this emotion drawn from the readers to persuade them that the war cause should not be taken lightly and should not be taken for granted.

In many other instances, the author evinces an emotional reaction or appeals to pathos. However, appealing to pathos within his readers is certainly not the only one of his strategies and he goes even further in executing his writing style in order to convey his central motive and reason for composing this article. Diction is the next crucial element to the exemplary writing style expressed by this warrior. Selective words used in this article such as ‘voyage’, ‘stagger’, and ‘urges’, carry certain strength to them, whereas other words would not be as adequate or efficacious. For instance, using the words walk, tottering, wobbling, or any of that kind would not be as affective in conveying the meaning of the sentence. The author questions or even accuses, “Ever stagger to the john at 0440? (20)”. This use of this one word “stagger,” not only paints a mental picture in the minds of the readers, (imagery) but also puts weight and perspective to the fact that the clumsy sleep-like maneuvers are part of a daily schedule and increase the awareness of the soldiers predicament and the difficulties that he faces.

Although many other key strategies and examples of rhetoric are manipulated, imagery is a significant factor in the way the author writes and how appealing and persuasive he is to his readers. The way this soldier writes, it is as though the readers can relate to him and understand him and even see what he goes through as he uses everyday objects such as tents, vacuums, and beds, that we can clearly envision in the treacherous conditions that he describes for us. In an instructional, commanding tone he directs, “Go to your vacuum, open the canister, and pour it all over you, your bed, clothing, and your personal effects (3).” As he goes on to state how these are somewhat like the conditions he faces, along with countless of his other men, it perfectly portrays (while at the same time using possible exaggeration or hyperbole) and depicts mental images and the reader

can visualize how disgusting, despicable, and horrendous the atmosphere is. For this example, and others, he is excellent at describing his events as to show the readers how he sees the current events, and sometimes stretches or tweaks them in order to appeal more to our sensitivity and emotions.

The purpose of this soldiers article was probably to evoke sympathy for the war effort and show that the basic things that are taken for granted are difficult and even sometimes unimaginable in the type of situation he faced. This article was very efficient at conveying its message through pathos, diction, and imagery, as it used these forms or rhetoric to strengthen the essay and make it more, not appealing, but rather, enlightening. It explains the constant struggles apart from what we might believe to be that of the war.